

Strathnairn Arts Association 2022 Directors Report

Dear Members,

After enduring the Covid-19 restrictions and closures of 2021, Strathnairn Arts Association started the year with renewed enthusiasm and excitement to return to business and bring the life and atmosphere back to Strathnairn. The Homestead galleries continued to deliver a rich exhibition program from a diverse range of local artists and disciplines. Seventeen exhibitions in total.

A highlight of the exhibition program was *Ten Years of Strathnairn* a group exhibition of artists who have participated in The Different Strokes Art Group. This group was originally started by students who studied with local Artist and educator Michael Winters but have since welcomed new members. They have met (and continue to meet) at Strathnairn Village Hall every Wednesday for the last ten years. This is just one example of the strength of community shared at Strathnairn.

Strathnairn Woolshed Gallery led the program with five major exhibitions, including local artists David Jenz, Wendy Teakle, Anita McIntyre and Sally Simpson. *Anita McIntyre. A Survey 1970 to 2022* examined Anita McIntyre's remarkable career in ceramics, from student works of the 1970s to recent work. Curated by Peter Haynes, the exhibition received positive reviews and was a fitting venue for this exhibition, Anita has long played a significant role with Strathnairn, serving as President of our Board for several years and as an ongoing supporter and advocate of Strathnairn Arts' programs and activities. Since 2014 SAA has awarded The Anita McIntyre Award for Ceramics to a graduate of the ANU School of Art. In 2022 Shen-Ju Hsieh was awarded a 6-month residency at Strathnairn's Ceramic Studios.

For the eighteenth year, the Woolshed Gallery hosted *Squares*, the SAA People's choice award. More than 250 entries were received and exhibited for the annual community exhibition. The Strathnairn membership community was on display at the Annual Members Exhibition Artworks by forty-nine SAA members were on display, showing the breadth and depth of our members. In the latter half of 2022, Strathnairn was challenged by the weather, with several significant downpours leading to flooding and degradation of the roads and car parks. As a result, the Woolshed Gallery was closed, and *Manifera Muse*, an exhibition of Strathnairn studio holder Sally Simpson was Canceled. SAA Open Day was also Canceled as we struggled to manage groundwater and ever-deteriorating roads.

The nineteen SAA studios remained full and active throughout the year; long-time studio holders Peter Latona, Jo Hollier and Nancy Tingey vacated their studios, making way for new members. We will miss their presence on-site and hope they continue to be a part of the Strathnairn community.

We continued to nurture the relationship with our closest neighbour, Ginnindery. Working with ArtsAct, Strathnairn management continues to lead this relationship keeping SAA values, goals and future at the centre of our decision-making. As part of the ongoing support of SAA, Ginnindery provided \$5000 prize money to host *The Ginnindery Drawing Prize*, whose main prize was won by Marie Haggarty, a friend of Strathnairn and regular workshop instructor.

2023 will no doubt present new challenges and opportunities. I look forward to working with the new SAA board and Strathnairn community to build on our achievements and strive to realize Strathnairn's potential.

James Holland
Director
26 May, 2023